

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-71-00

November 6, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of the Codification of ASHRAE/IES 90.1-1989, with respect to the requirements for economizer controls.

Question: Where are the requirements for economizer controls found?

Answer: Section 403.2.8 of the Codification of ASHRAE/IES 90.1-1989 specifies the requirements for economizer controls in buildings designated as high-rise residential (more than three stories in height) and commercial. This section of the code does not apply in any location where the Mean Coincident Wet-Bulb exceeds 72 degrees F *and* the Heating Degree Days are less than 2000 (values for Hartford, CT are 73 degrees F and 6277 HDD, so economizers are required). The code then goes on to list seven exceptions to the requirement based on: size; filtering equipment; provision of outdoor air cooling to reduce energy usage; sensible cooling load; spaces served (residential and hotel/motel); site-recovered or site-solar energy sources; and spaces adjacent to certain operable windows. The language of the code should be referenced for the specific requirements.